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(54) Title: TITANIUM-VANADIUM-TIN COMPRISING CATALYST AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDE

(57) Abstract: Disclosed are catalytic compositions comprising oxides of titanium, vanadium and tin which are suitable for the production of phthalic anhydride by oxidizing o-xylene and/or naphthalene in the gas phase. The catalysts exhibit excellent activity and selectivity. The catalyst comprise 2 to 15% by weight (calculated as V₂O₅) of vanadium, from 1 to 15% by weight (calculated as SnO₂) of tin and further comprise from 70 to 97% by weight (calculated as TiO₂) of titanium. In a preferred embodiment the catalyst of the invention comprise up to 5% by weight (calculated as M₂O) of at least one alkali metal, preferably lithium, potassium or rubidium, and more preferably cesium. In an even more preferred embodiment, cesium is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 2% by weight (calculated as Cs₂O).

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